

Morgan County Needs Assessment Report

Survey Findings

1/15/2013

West Virginia University

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Overview of Methodology

West Virginia University's Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources program along with The Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center conducted a recreation needs assessment to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities within Morgan County, and more specifically, within a 10 acre brownfield and adjacent 26 acre woodland. The brownfield was used in the 1970s as a salvage yard and crushing facility for automobiles. The property was purchased by the Morgan County commission in 2006 to expand recreational opportunities in the county. The field property is not currently used and a Phase II ESSA is in progress. The soil contained arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, mercury and lead at or above limits. The well water had low levels of barium and coliform. An EPA clean-up grant was recently submitted for the property.

The needs assessment instrument measured respondent's use of 50 existing park facilities and programs in Morgan County and support for 20 different new developments. A convenient sampling strategy was used during to distribute questionnaires to community residents and students throughout the county. A total of 481 completed questionnaires were returned during October to December 2012. The following pages summarize major survey findings.

Major Survey Findings

Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities (Table 1). The facilities that the highest percentage of households expressed a need for are: Playground equipment (80%), small neighborhood parks (77%), paved walking and biking trails (76%), and municipal golf courses (73%). For playground equipment, the highest percentage of households (26%) felt that 50% of their needs were being met. For small neighborhood parks, the majority of households (25%) felt that 75% of their needs were met. For paved walking and biking trails, most households (26%) reported that 0% of their needs were met. Finally, for municipal golf courses, the majority of households (24%) felt that 0% of their needs were met.

Table 1 Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities							
Type of Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Facility? (%)		If YES, To What Percent Are Your Needs Being Met? (%)				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
A. Small neighborhood parks	76.5	23.5	20.0	25.2	12.6	15.8	11.5
B. Youth baseball fields	49.1	50.9	46.5	24.4	18.3	8.0	2.8
C. Youth softball fields	41.6	58.4	42.5	24.0	18.4	9.5	5.6
D. Paved walking and biking trails	75.9	24.1	15.9	13.1	20.6	24.9	25.5
E. Large community parks	70.3	29.7	28.6	22.8	21.1	15.3	12.2
F. Adult softball fields	22.5	69.4	34.0	22.0	15.0	14.0	15.0
G. Adult baseball fields	23.0	77.0	31.5	21.7	14.1	17.4	15.2
H. Off leash dog areas	37.8	62.2	9.0	3.9	11.0	11.6	64.5
I. Natural areas/ wildlife habitat	66.7	33.3	30.8	23.3	20.8	13.6	11.5
J. Picnic shelters	73.2	26.8	25.1	28.7	24.8	14.0	7.5
K. Skate park	37.0	63.0	15.7	13.2	16.4	17.0	37.7
L. Interpretive areas	14.2	85.8	8.6	5.2	36.2	19.0	31.0
M. Soccer fields	47.8	52.2	21.0	20.5	24.5	17.5	16.5
N. Lacrosse fields	12.6	87.4	7.4	7.4	9.3	25.9	50.0
O. Football fields	46.1	53.9	29.5	25.4	21.2	10.9	13.0
P. Senior center	33.1	66.9	45.3	19.7	16.8	13.9	4.4
Q. Outdoor tennis courts	36.5	63.5	14.6	17.1	25.3	22.2	20.9
R. Outdoor ice skating/hockey rinks	38.7	61.3	4.9	1.9	5.6	8.6	79.0
S. Outdoor Swimming Pools	72.1	27.9	21.3	20.0	23.9	22.3	12.6
T. Gym space/indoor courts	65.6	34.4	13.6	14.3	21.0	24.6	26.5
U. Disc golf course	16.6	83.4	8.5	5.6	11.3	18.3	56.3
V. Sand volleyball courts	38.2	61.8	13.7	11.8	11.1	20.9	42.5
W. Outdoor basketball courts	54.8	45.2	19.3	20.6	24.9	24.5	10.7
X. Playground equipment	80.3	19.7	20.1	24.9	25.7	21.3	8.0
Y. Campgrounds	60.3	39.7	15.4	17.7	19.7	26.4	20.9
Z. Nature Center	58.0	42.0	25.4	17.1	20.0	21.7	15.8
1. Municipal golf course	73.3	26.7	22.9	16.5	18.3	18.3	23.9
2. Other: Indoor pool, Dojo, Arcade, Craft classes, Indoor tennis, Fairgrounds, Track, Indoor ice rink	2.9	.6	--	--	.4	.4	1.9

County Recreation Facilities (Figure 1). Based on the sum of their top choices, the recreation facilities that the highest percentage of households have used during the past 12 months are: Playground equipment (39%), small neighborhood parks, (38%), outdoor swimming pools (25%), and large community parks (22%).

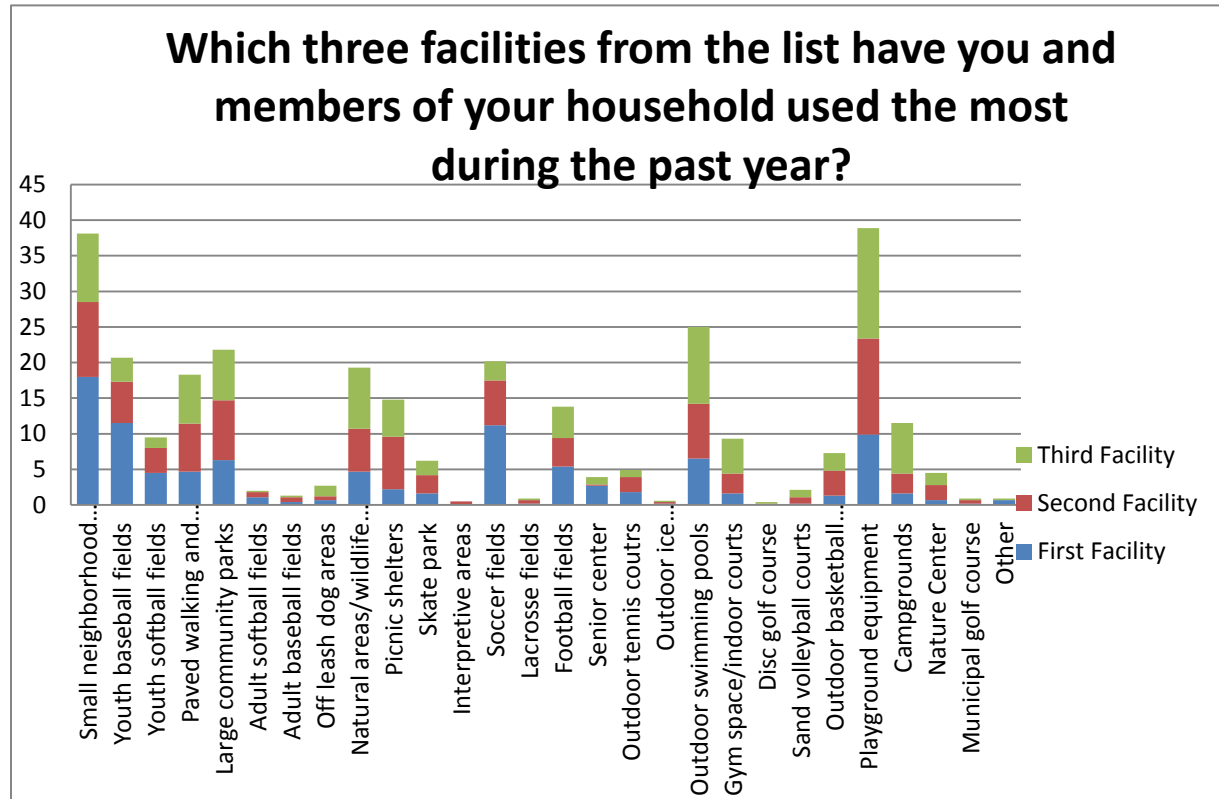


Figure 1. County Recreation Facilities

Overall Quality of Recreation Facilities (Figure 2). Forty-three percent (43%) of households rated the overall quality of recreation facilities as good, while thirty-six percent (36%) rated the facilities as fair. Eight percent (8%) of households rated the facilities as excellent, seven percent (7%) as poor and five percent (5%) don't know.

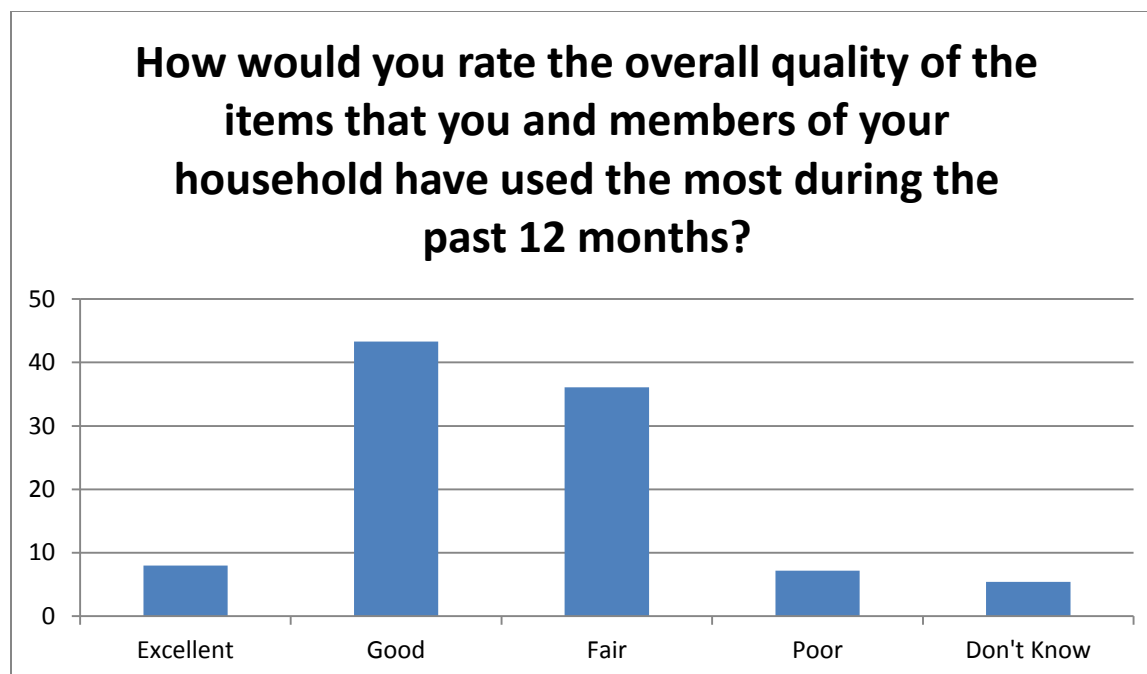


Figure 2. Overall Quality of Recreation Facilities

Most Important Parks and Recreation Facilities (Figure 3). Based on the sum of their top choices, the parks and recreation facilities that households rated as the most important are: Small neighborhood parks (34%), playground equipment (31%), paved walking and biking trails (27%), and large community parks (23%).

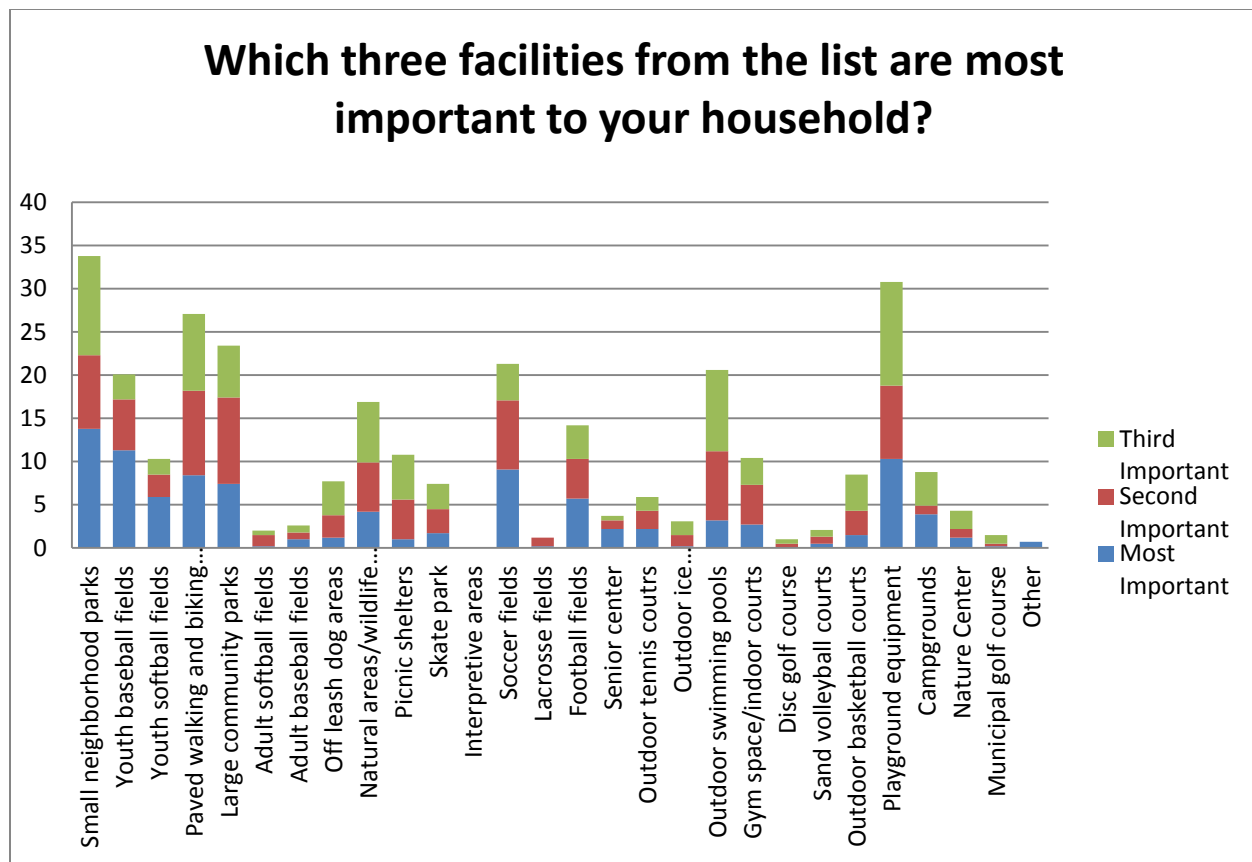


Figure 3. Most Important Parks and Recreation Facilities

Need for Sports and Recreation Programs (Table 2). The sports and recreation programs that the highest percentage of households have a need for are: Youth sports programs (67%), special events such as concerts and movies (65%), farmers' market (59%), and youth learn to swim programs (55%). For youth sports programs the highest percentage of households (29%) felt that 100% of their needs were being met. With special events, the majority of households (31%) felt that 25% of their needs were met. For farmers' market, forty-five percent (45%) of households stated that 100% of their needs were met. Finally, with youth learn to swim programs, most households (50%) felt that 0% of their needs were met.

Type of Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Program?		If YES, To What Percent Are Your Needs Being Met?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
A. Youth Learn to Swim Programs	54.7	45.3	5.2	6.1	17.8	21.1	49.8
B. Preschool programs	32.6	67.4	58.5	13.8	10.8	10.0	6.9
C. Before and after school programs	52.1	47.9	23.9	19.6	23.9	18.2	14.4
D. Youth summer camp programs	48.7	51.3	14.0	9.8	21.8	25.4	29.0
E. Youth sports programs	66.5	33.5	28.9	26.7	26.7	10.9	6.8
F. Youth fitness and wellness programs	52.7	47.3	12.2	14.6	25.9	22.9	24.4
G. Programs for teens	47.6	52.4	7.2	11.3	17.0	26.8	37.6
H. Adult fitness and wellness programs	52.1	47.9	11.2	17.6	21.0	25.4	24.9
I. Water fitness programs	40.8	59.2	7.0	12.0	18.4	25.3	37.3
J. Tennis lessons and leagues	21.4	78.6	14.0	11.6	19.8	29.1	25.6
K. Youth art, dance, performing arts	47.4	52.6	14.1	16.7	17.7	29.7	21.9
L. Adult art, dance, performing arts	22.2	77.8	11.4	12.5	20.5	22.7	33.0
M. Adult sports programs	25.1	74.9	8.9	3.0	15.8	37.6	34.7
N. Adult programs for 50 years and older	19.1	80.9	10.5	7.9	17.1	22.4	42.1
O. Programs for people with disabilities	26.8	73.2	13.1	5.6	7.5	28.0	45.8
P. Birthday parties	49.5	50.5	13.7	7.1	22.3	31.0	25.9
Q. Adult continuing education programs	38.6	61.4	7.3	8.0	22.0	28.0	34.7
R. Golf lessons and leagues	16.4	83.6	9.9	4.2	16.9	38.0	31.0
S. Special events, i.e. concerts, movies, etc.	65.4	34.6	11.2	12.7	20.9	30.6	24.6
T. Nature programs/environmental education	51.8	48.2	15.3	--	23.2	31.6	29.9
U. Travel programs	25.5	74.5	--	--	--	39.7	60.3
V. Farmers' Market	58.5	41.5	45.1	--	24.3	22.0	8.7
W. Programs with your pets	27.0	73.0	--	8.6	14.3	30.5	46.7
X. Other: Girl scouts, Dog park, Karate, Indoor swimming, children's events and entertainment, Swim teams, Bowling, Track	1.7	1.0	--	.2	.4	.4	.6

Most Important Sports and Recreation Programs (Figure 4). Based on the sum of their top choices, the sports and recreation programs that households rated as the most important are: Youth art, dance, performing arts (50%), youth sports programs (39%) before and after school programs (29%), and special events (24%).

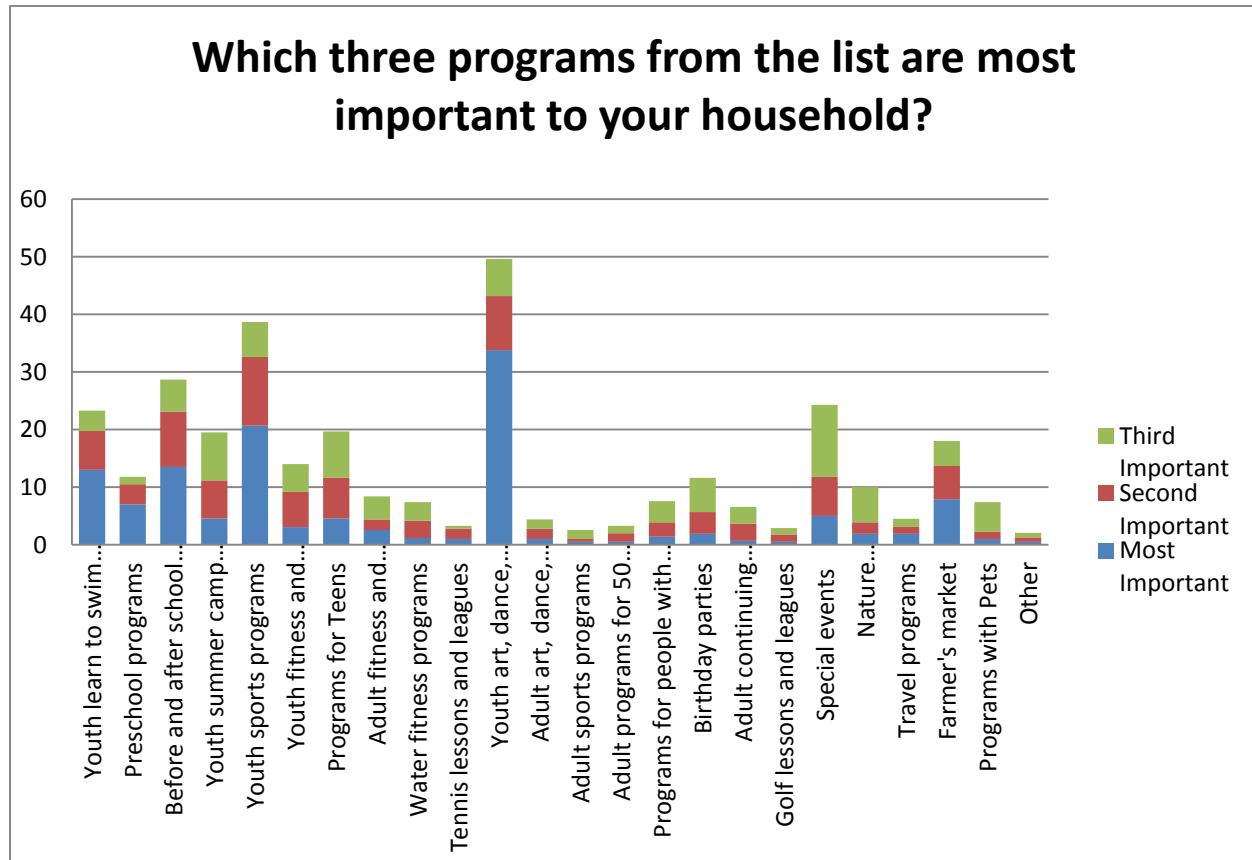


Figure 4. Most Important Sports and Recreation Programs

Sports and Recreation Programs Participated in Most Often at County Facilities (Figure 5). Based on the sum of their top choices, the sports and recreation programs that households participate in most often at Morgan County parks and recreation facilities are: Youth sports programs (58%), special events (35%), farmers' market (27%), and before and after school programs (27%).

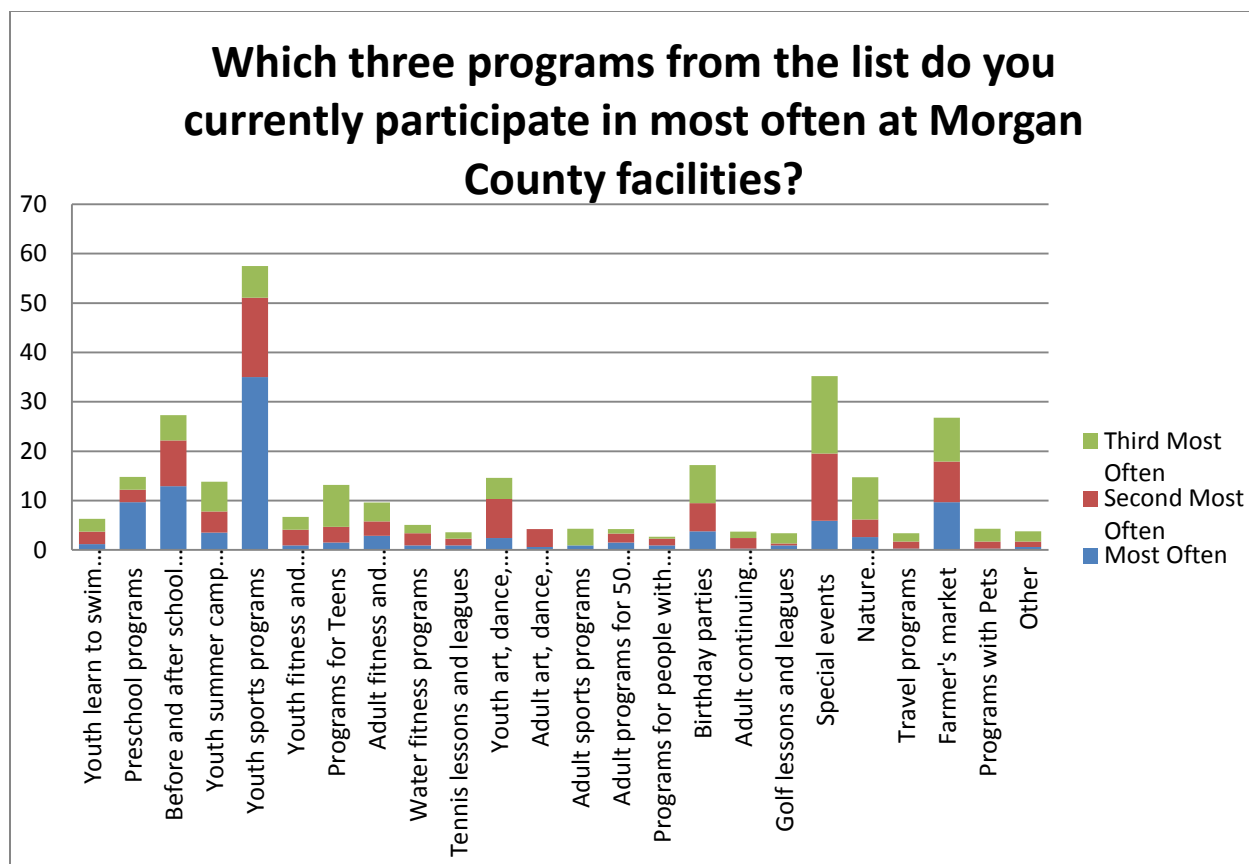


Figure 5. Sports and Recreation Programs Participated in Most Often at County Facilities

Constraints of Being Involved in Recreation Activities (Table 3). The top choices of what prevents households from participating in recreational activities are: Lack of money (60%), unaware of available programs and services (49%), programs and services they want are not being offered (47%), and activity is too expensive (42%). To cope with not participating, many households indicated that they stay home and watch movies or play video games.

Table 3 Constraints of Being Involved in Recreation Activities		
What prevents you from getting involved in recreational activities? [Check ALL that apply.]		
	Frequency	Percent
The programs & services I want are not being offered	225	46.8
Unaware of available programs & services	237	49.3
Lack of Money	289	60.1
Other commitments	125	26.0
Not interested	44	9.1
Parental concern	46	9.6
Peer pressure	14	2.9
Transportation problems	96	20.0
Activity is too expensive	203	42.2
Lack of time	159	33.1
Health problems	30	6.2
Other: Hours open, lack of bike access, working parents, safety, new to area, distance, conflict between parents and coaches during sports activities, lack of space, weather	39	8.1

Reasons Households would use Outdoor Sports Facilities (Table 4). The most frequently mentioned reasons that households would use outdoor sports facilities that could be developed in Morgan County are: Youth soccer games and/or practices (43%), youth baseball games and/or practices (36%), youth football games and/or practices (36%), and teaching clinics and lessons (34%).

Table 4 Reasons Households Would Use Outdoor Sports Facilities		
Youth and adult outdoor sports facilities could be developed in Morgan County for playing games, practices, and training. From the list below please check ALL the reasons you and members of your household would use an OUTDOOR sports facility in Morgan County.		
	Frequency	Percent
Youth soccer games and/or practices	208	43.2
Youth baseball games and/or practices	174	36.2
Youth softball games and/or practices	137	28.5
Youth lacrosse games and/or practices	53	11.0
Youth football games and/or practices	171	35.6
Youth tennis matches and/or practices	42	8.7
Teaching clinics and lessons	161	33.5
Adult tennis matches and/or practices	32	6.7
Adult softball games and/or practices	57	11.9
Adult soccer games and/or practices	43	8.9
Other: Martial arts, bicycle and/or hiking trips, racquetball, skate park, hunting and fishing activities, basketball, dance classes, gym/workout facilities, archery park, paintball and nerf gun range, track and field, playgrounds, volleyball, cheerleading/gymnastics, swimming, golf, movie theater, mall, disc golf	75	15.6
None, wouldn't use an outdoor sports facility	65	13.5

Level of Support for Developing Parks, Recreation Facility and Trail Items (Table 5). The top choices of the level of support for developing parks, recreation facility, and trail items include: Install new playground equipment (71%), neighborhood parks (65%), new paved walking and biking trails (61%), and outdoor aquatic (pool) complex (60%).

Table 5 Level of Support for Developing Parks, Recreation Facility, and Trail Items				
How supportive are you of having Morgan County develop the following parks, recreation facility and trail items	Level of Support			
	<i>Very Supportive</i>	<i>Somewhat Supportive</i>	<i>Supportive</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>
A. New paved walking and biking trails	60.7	19.9	10.6	8.8
B. Complete missing walking and biking trail connections	52.0	20.9	11.5	15.5
C. Neighborhood parks	64.7	15.4	10.5	9.4
D. Install new playground equipment	70.6	12.9	9.0	7.5
E. Large community parks	56.0	20.3	10.8	12.9
F. Adult softball fields	18.5	20.1	26.4	35.0
G. Soccer fields	38.6	24.1	17.5	19.8
H. Outdoor aquatic (pool) complex	59.6	14.2	12.9	13.3
I. Youth softball fields	37.5	20.9	22.5	19.1
J. Youth baseball complex	40.5	18.2	19.6	21.6
K. Youth lacrosse fields	22.0	16.7	27.2	34.1
L. Flag/touch football fields	35.5	18.0	21.4	25.1
M. Disc golf course	16.9	13.4	21.9	47.8
N. Off-leash dog areas	31.0	18.8	15.9	34.7
O. Purchase land for park and open space	39.8	18.2	17.1	24.9
P. Domed athletic facility	39.0	16.1	14.3	30.6
Q. Outdoor ice skating rinks	40.5	16.7	16.3	26.5
R. Picnic shelters	49.5	22.2	17.2	11.0
S. Tennis courts	26.8	20.6	23.2	29.4
T. Outdoor basketball courts	39.1	23.2	18.4	19.3
U. Teen center	55.8	19.4	14.1	10.7
V. Skate park	37.8	16.2	18.6	27.4
W. Pedestrian bridges or underpasses for safe trail crossings	50.8	16.8	14.0	18.4
X. Other: Dojo, racquetball, swimming, youth and adult art and drama programs, programs for seniors and people with disabilities, group trips/activities, campgrounds, youth dances, indoor workout facilities, track and field, education courses, fairgrounds, paintball/nerf gun range, ATV trail, entertainment center, sports complex, community garden, basketball, indoor swimming	5.0	--	--	1.9
X. Other: _____	1.7	--	--	.8

Actions Most Willing to Fund to Develop New Parks and Recreation Facilities (Figure 6).

Based on the sum of their top choices, the actions that households are most willing to fund through a bond levy to develop new parks and recreation facilities are: New paved walking and biking trails (34%), install new playground equipment (27%), teen center (25%), and neighborhood parks (22%).

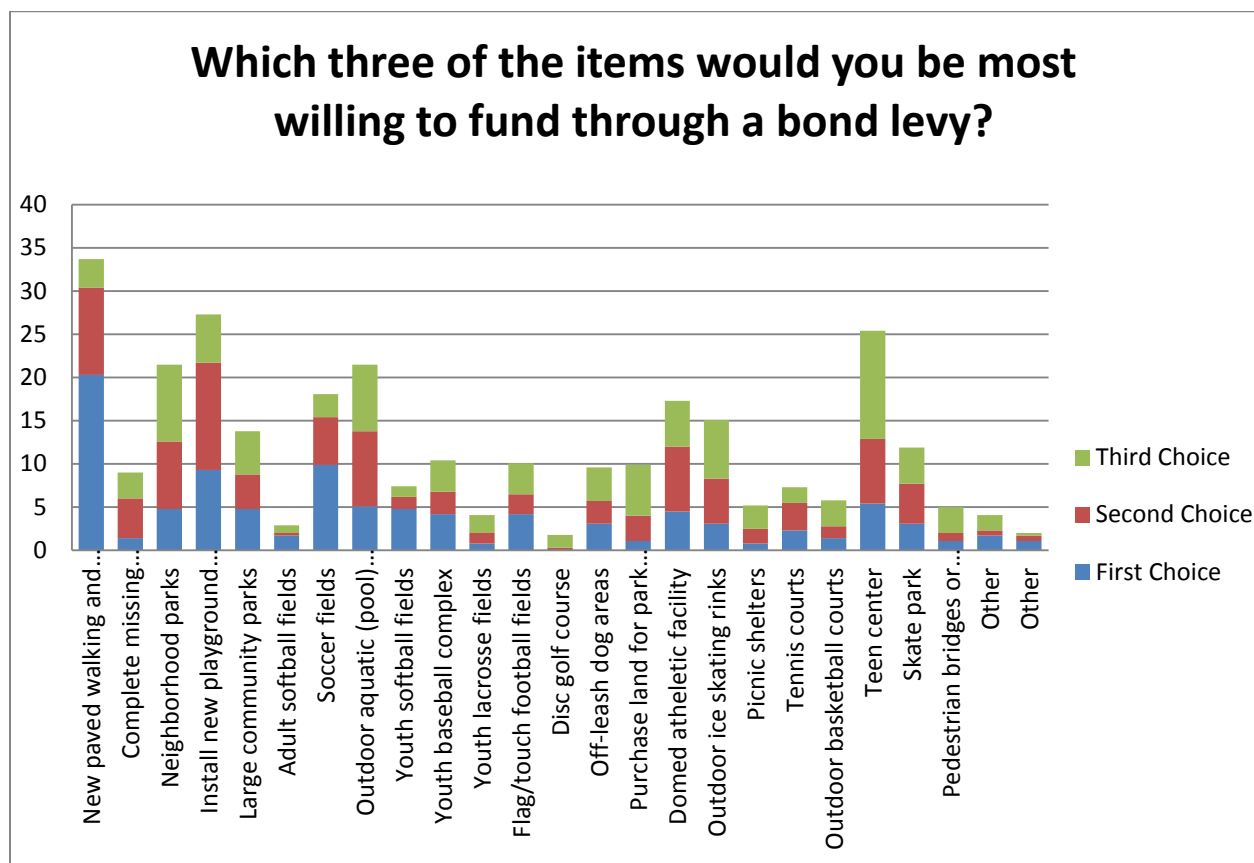


Figure 6. Actions Most Willing to Fund to Develop New Parks and Recreation Facilities

Amount of Additional Property Taxes Willing to Fund New Parks and Recreation Facilities (Figure 7).

Thirty-one percent (31%) of households are willing to pay \$3-\$5 per month of additional property taxes, while twenty-eight percent (28%) did not want to pay any additional taxes. Twelve percent (12%) of households are willing to pay \$9-\$11 a month in additional taxes, while eleven percent (11%) are willing to pay and additional \$6-\$8 in taxes.

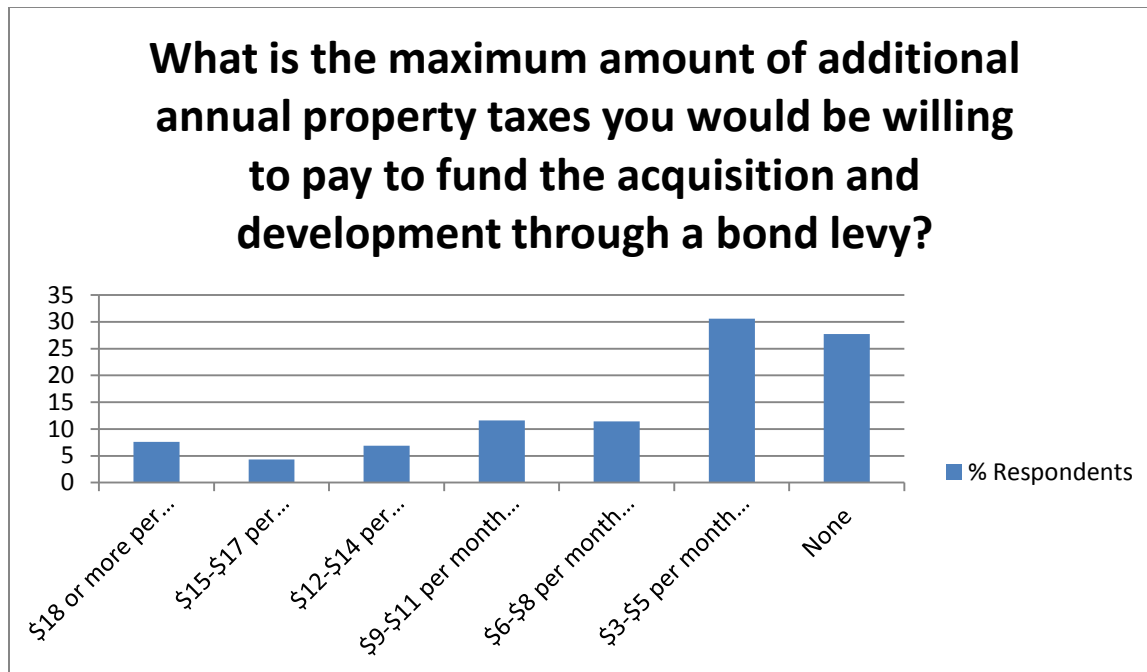


Figure 7. Amount of Additional Property Taxes Willing to Fund New Parks and Recreation Facilities

Voting on a Referendum to Fund New Parks and Recreation Facilities (Figure 8). Forty-four percent of households (44%) would vote in favor of a referendum to fund the acquisition, improvement, and development of the types of parks, trails, and recreation facilities that are most important to their household. Twenty-eight percent (28%) indicated they were not sure, while twenty-four percent (24%) stated that they might vote in favor of the referendum.

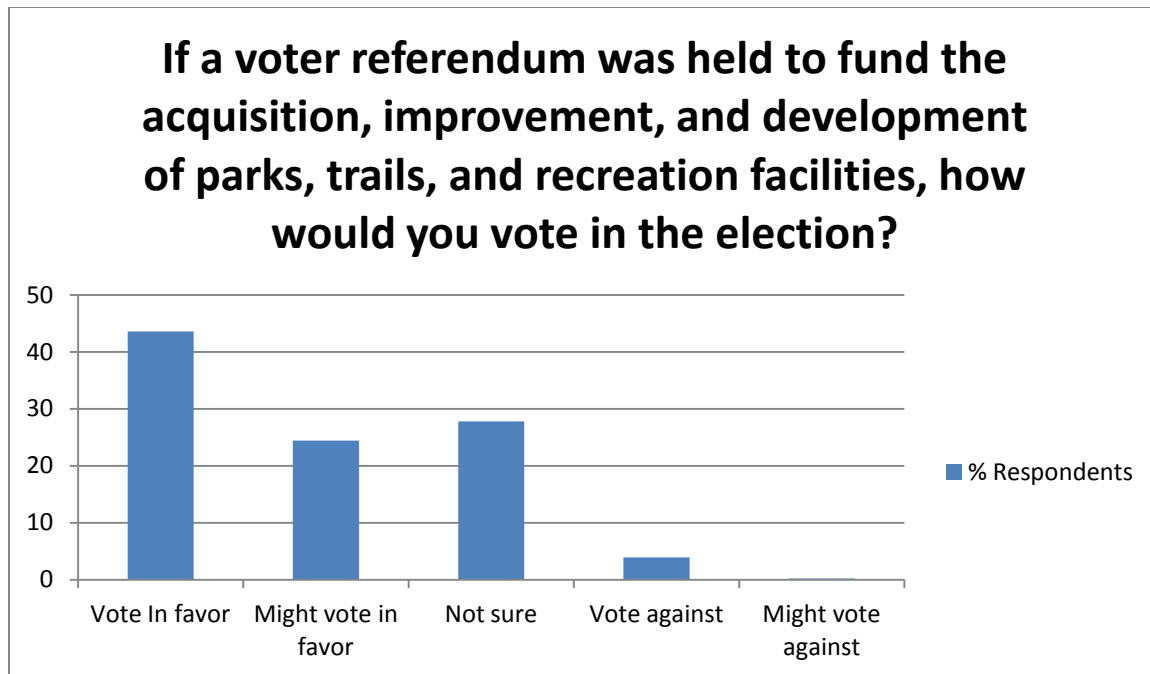


Figure 8. Voting on a Referendum to Fund New Parks and Recreation Facilities

Demographics (Figures 9-12; Tables 6-8). Almost all households were Morgan County residents, who own their home. Thirty-three percent of households had an annual income between \$25,000-\$49,999, while twenty-eight percent (28%) of households had an annual income under \$25,000. The majority of households (69%) had children between the ages of 5-9 a, and adults between the ages of 35-44. The average age of households completing the survey is 36 years, and eighty percent (80%) of respondents were female.

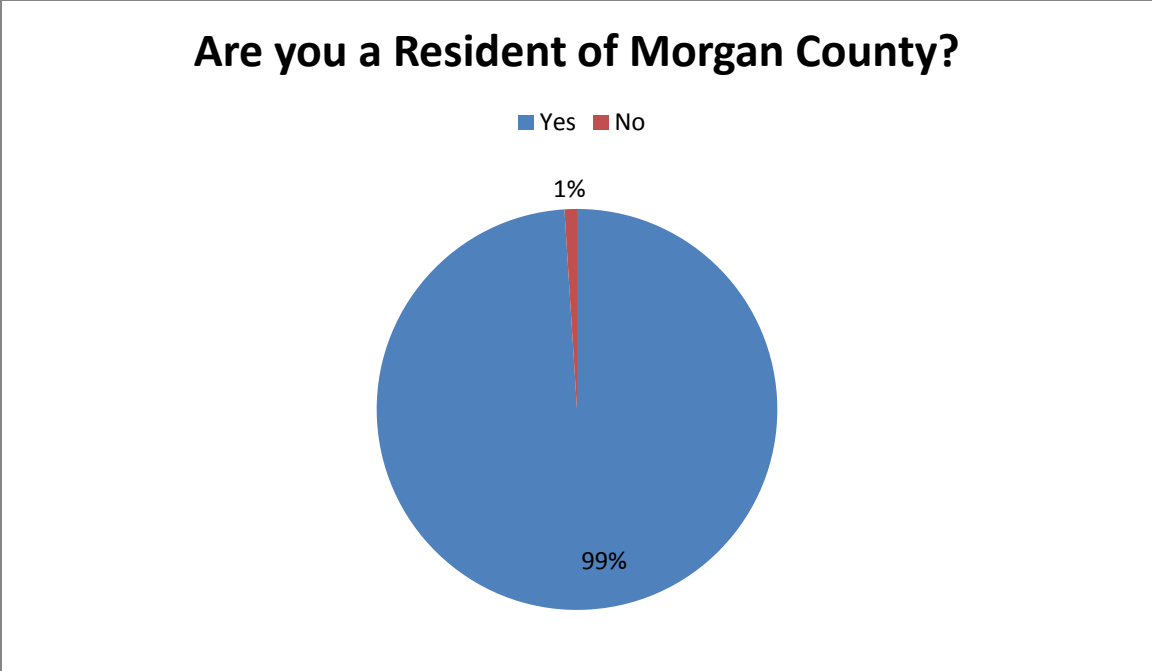


Figure 9. Residents of Morgan County

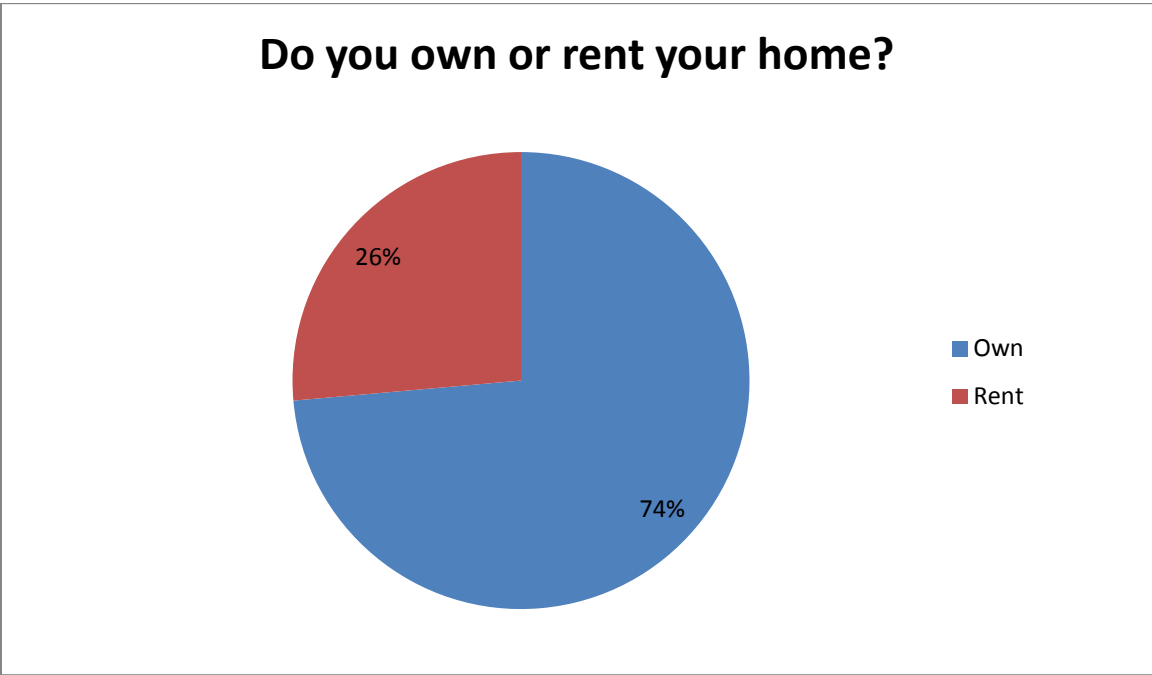


Figure 10. Own or Rent Home

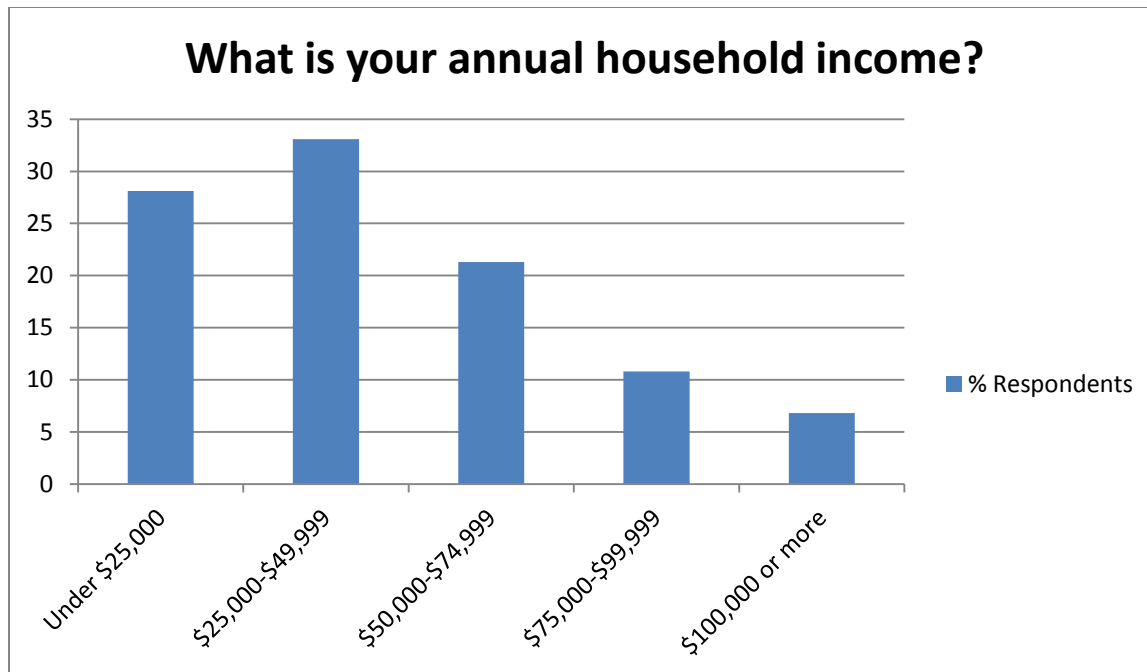


Figure 11. Annual Household Income

Table 6 Number of People in Household		
Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:		
	Frequency	Percent
Under age 5	111	23.1
Ages 5-9	333	69.2
Ages 10-14	205	42.6
Ages 15-19	134	27.9
Ages 20-24	31	6.4
Ages 25-34	197	41.0
Ages 35-44	234	48.6
Ages 45-54	116	24.1
Ages 55-64	43	8.9
Ages 65-74	29	6.0
Ages 75+	13	2.7

Table 7 Age of Survey Respondents				
	Range	Mean	Median	Mode
What is your age?	11-74	35.6	35.00	35

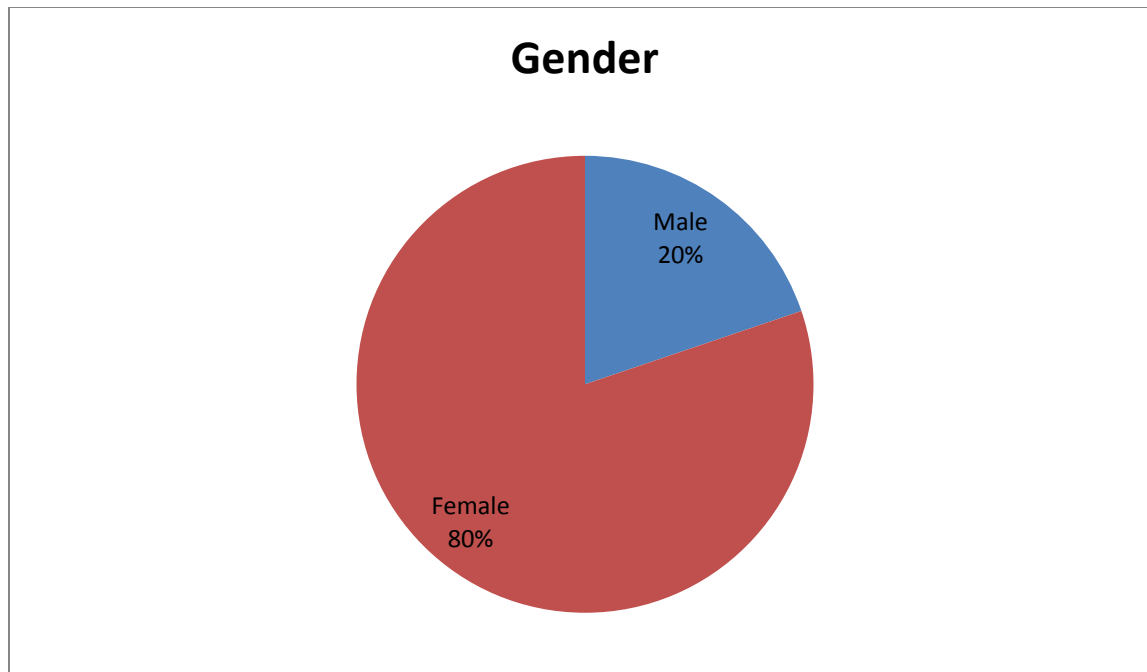


Figure 12. Gender of Survey Respondents

Table 8 Age of Survey Respondents in Detail		
Age	Frequency	Percent
11	1	.2
14	1	.2
15	7	1.5
16	21	4.4
17	12	2.5
18	5	1.0
21	1	.2
23	1	.2
24	4	.8
25	9	1.9
26	13	2.7
27	11	2.3
28	14	2.9
29	17	3.5
30	22	4.6
31	11	2.3
32	18	3.7
33	23	4.8

34	20	4.2
35	27	5.6
36	22	4.6
37	8	1.7
38	20	4.2
39	17	3.5
40	14	2.9
41	11	2.3
42	7	1.5
43	9	1.9
44	3	.6
45	11	2.3
46	6	1.2
47	6	1.2
48	6	1.2
49	9	1.9
50	3	.6
51	5	1.0
52	3	.6
53	2	.4
54	1	.2
55	5	1.0
58	2	.4
59	1	.2
60	1	.2
61	2	.4
62	2	.4
63	2	.4
65	1	.2
67	2	.4
68	1	.2
69	3	.6
71	2	.4
72	2	.4
73	2	.4
74	1	.2

Additional Comments That Could Assist Morgan County in Improving Parks, Trails, Open Space, Recreational Facilities, and Services.

Additional Comments
"We live in Great Cacapon and there isn't anything for families and kids to do we are in need of some kind of park or outdoor sport field"
"Kids need more activities period why you think they turn to drugs and other bad things (boredom)"
"Put nets on basketball courts replace broken playground equipment"
"We need better soccer fields!!!"
"Need to encourage businesses here to employ and create jobs for Morgan County making more revenue which engulfs more tax dollars"
"I find it very discouraging that there are not many sidewalks. There are a couple here and there but none of great use, especially for activity."
"Further, we drive to Hedgesville for outdoor karate lessons because we're not interested in Judo or Barack Akempo at Rankins. Lastly, we'd REALLY appreciate a dog park (unleashed dog area). We pick up after our pets, but notice it isn't a common habit of park users!"
Well lighted sidewalks in order to safely let pedestrians walk in and around town. More people would walk if it were safe. IF WE HAD AN INDOOR POOL IT WOULD CREATE SO MUCH REVENUE. (WORK LIFEGUARDS, SKILLS CLASSES SCUBA DIVING. And you can swim for life.
We need a YMCA for our kids. Hagerstown is the only one close by. Would love to have a swim team in this county.
"I think this is a great survey and I hope our town continues to grow in this area!"
"I would back anything that gives children a future in sports. This area would benefit in all of these areas, from parks, entertainment to sports."
"I happen to know that the senior center is looking to develop a walking trail with exercise circuits at the new building."
"Improve upon our existing recreational facilities and see if Blue Ridge College can offer some continuing education for adults"
"Consider the seniors and their limitations"
"Activities for seniors access for disabled, lower cost"
"We need to think about our future needs and what will be needed by our young people"
" Gym (Rankins is great) needs free Wi-Fi. More space for exercise classes (Rene Kesecker's Zumba class) needs a space!"
"In the summer, most schools lock up the playgrounds. Some playgrounds with shade near each small town would be helpful. Children who are alienated should have access also. There is <u>funding</u> for such parks scholarships/ art and recreation classes should be available to people."
"Pay the schools to improve existing soccer fields larger outdoor pool w/grass area, a park w/ playground equipment other than the schools"
"We need more support for childrens rec leagues and for teen programs"
"There are a decent array of recreation activities available in the community, but notice/info about each activity is separate. A central catalogue/flier of

activities, dates of classes, when to register for sports, etc. would help A LOT for planning and selection and participation.”
“Stop any and all funding for the adult ‘drunk fest’ softball leagues. If they want it bad enough they will raise their own money. Focus on the <u>children</u> !”
“Cacapon State Park meets needs for trails, biking, open space, swimming, etc. We sadly lack in ‘Teen Centers’, ‘Dance’, ‘Access to campsites/river’, etc. ‘youth oriented areas’ that encourages our teens away from drugs etc., opportunities/places to allow families to bond.”
“An indoor soccer league would be great”
“More trails, parks, fields, dog runs!! Please!!”
“We enjoy our soccer fields which our fundraisers help that. Instead of wasting money on items teenagers will eventually destroy. How about putting it to good use. Like helping out RESA 8 and building and making it bigger and safer, not so close to road. Or putting in a stop light at Meyers St. Widmeyer school. You know how many times people don’t stop even when the officer on duty is directing traffic. It’s very dangerous for him and the cars he is letting out. Seriously think about that one!”
“They should put playground equipment and more shelters in the park we already have in town. Since the senior center is moving they could turn that building into a community center or use the old hospital.”
“Something that isn’t going to cost a family a fortune to be able to do”
“Need to properly run the programs being offered. Need to advertise them. Have them when scheduled. If cancelled, let everyone know. Not let them show up. Need to be properly refunded.”
“Morgan Co. has some of the spaces listed in this survey so I would not fund building completely new ones, but would improvements to areas that could be upgraded. A fantastic addition would be an indoor rec center such as the one in Berkeley County.”
“Not sure only lived up here for 6 months don’t really [know] much about up here”
“Have a few more benches near the springs where kids play available in the state park in town (this may be out of your jurisdiction though...) proper sidewalks all town streets with <u>good lighting</u> so walkers could stroll through town instead of on a lonely path somewhere”
“We do see some change for Morgan County, but not for Paw Paw, which is still Morgan County. I don’t pay paying a small bit more in taxes IF it was used in my community. A lot of people can’t travel 30 minutes or more due to health or financial situations.”
“Need stuff in all community in the county”
“You need to put something in all the community’s not just one or two”
“Need to build a bike connection from Paw Paw to C&O canal bike trail”
“Anything teen orientated or animal oriented is a plus as there is not much for those groups in place”
“More things to do, Paw Paw has nothing, I would really like a <u>skating rink</u> !!”
“Nice indoor basketball courts outdoor court w/lights”
“There is plenty of open space that could be marked out before games w/ the help of parents so the children can have more options of sports to play. Ex.

Soccer, football, flag football, field hockey if we could all help to make these available to our children"
"There is a <u>desperate</u> need for programs for all children and teens. And it has to be in <u>all</u> districts of Morgan County not just Berkeley Springs! In these programs all children need to be treat equally and not dismissed because of what part of the county they are from."
"Paw Paw is a part of Morgan Co. we would like to see things happen here too."
"The only way Morgan County could have anything good is to do something about all of the under aged drug abuse and adult"
The young people of this town need some place or places to go that offer something different even if its not a sport. And they need to have facilities open everyday and open at least until 9:00 or 10:00 pm. There is nothing to do for the young people in this town after dark. Very very sad and probably why our drug problem is as bad as it is. Instead of buying new police cruisers why not use that money towards a new facility.
I would only support a band levy if it was to be clear and money spent well by vote of residents unlike the school l.... I have yet to talk to anymore who says they supported keeping that- but its small town politics
Fix roads and drug problem's. We don't need any new parks, trails, or open space. Fix the one's we already have. People should stay home with their family.
We need more activities/ safe places for kids
Need more things for the children to do so they can stay out of trouble. It has to be for all ages and they have to be interested maybe something like a game room
Soccer fields and no new taxes
Better conditions for pedestrians and fixing problem roads and walkways
Publicize construction to invite community involvement and volunteers or donations of money or supplies
Berkley springs needs a commercial property association with requirements of outside property maintenance as well as historical and ecological confinements to improve appearance and welcoming visitors. Homeowner association with proper cosmetic and structural consignments a must. Committee on cleanliness and aesthetic requirements forced and volunteer members adjourned to city council necessary.
Need updated parks and playgrounds
Desperately need a real playground within Berkley springs town limits.
We need more support for childrens rec. leagues and for teen programs
I feel there should be more family friendly parks locally for residents here. The equipment here at the ones we have isn't very safe and very outdated
We have been a one income family for 2 years all of these things are low on my list at this point
More softball for youth girls
We need healthy physical activities for our youth, if we have them our youth would less likely get involved with drugs and alcohol. We must find something to keep our kids safe and healthy especially our teenagers.
Reasonable priced things to do for children

How about doing fundraising for money
It is obvious that the high school football field gets to much use to maintain football, baseball, soccer four youth age groups also use it. I am very in favor of construction of a dual purpose facility you youth football and soccer.
Community involvement to build and maintain if the community gets invested in something they are more likely to stay involved and use the facilities.
I will not support any levy raising funds for recreation until the issue of the soccer field purchase is settled. The public has yet to be told our tax money was used to wildlly overpay for a useless price of property.
This county needs things for the kids to do and needs to be run by responsible people that are going to keep up with it, Too many kids are getting into drugs and other bad stuff because the county doesn't offer things to entertain kids and keep them on the straight and narrow. Kids need opportunities.
Parks and recs services should be run for the benefit of the community and not for the glorification of a few individuals
There definitely needs to be more playground equipment for children. It gets used regularly and would be worth it. Also please consider something for teens/young adults to do in this town. That way they have more options then whats available because they get bored which leads to sex, drugs most of the time
Must look at the numbers of people-declining youth increasing seniors
Sports Complex
A youth center with supervised activities would be a dream come true
I'm not in favor for two reasons 1. The present economy-gas prices, taxes, etc..2. ,most of any money spent will be in the immediate Berkeley springs area 522 south and very little of the taxes we pay would end up being spent in the paw paw area. We pay the same taxes but would suffer because where we live.
Thank you for putting out this important survey
Brand new to the area so still trying to figure what's offered
Use the great resources in Morgan county, work with superintendents at the two state parks, help advertise for them, both offer perfect resources in the area, go check them out and the future expansion project at cacapon
There is nothing for the children/teens to do in the community besides organized sports. We need a new swimming pool in town, it is the same one since I was little except we had a diving board. We also need ice rinks and an indoor skating rink too. A new movie theater or a drive in theater would be nice too.
We really need soccer fields, the ones we have are dangerous something needs to be done with the Alex Richie field that is an embarrassment for her family. Either fix the field or create another soccer field properly and re-dedicate it to her. Then build something on the Richie field that no one can complain that the ground are dangerous to walk on. My children have played soccer for 13 years in that field and its awful. Let's face it is a growing sport in the country football takes a back seat. Give soccer the recognition it deserves.
Pool, soccer, playground equipment, I would be supportive for programs and facilities that support the youth
I think there should be a indoor pool and roller skate facilities

"Public ATV and/or off road trails would be great and could be set up to produce revenue"
"Weekend activities are needed for teens to do."
"Ban smoking in parks that are used for children and recreation"
"Fix the football field!"
"Youth Fishing programs"
"Really need no leash dog parks and teen center really BAD"
"Add dog parks and tennis lessons"
"Keep the annoying teenagers <u>out</u> "
"BSHS Soccer team needs a soccer field to play on"
"There are <u>so many outdoor</u> facilities in Paw Paw. <u>ALL</u> are <u>rarely</u> used. Since so much money has already been wasted on the excessive number of them, no more changes on additions should be made to facilities that are already way more than adequate, that people don't use any way. The local clinic doesn't even have a physician on staff and there is no place residents can get much needed therapy, especially in the winter. Recreation sounds like fun but necessities need to come first, NOT more stuff that we already have too much of! The wealthy like spending OTHER peoples money on frivolities that make themselves appear "generous" but REAL people can't afford to pay extra for what they already have in excessive amounts. Most residents don't have access to INDOOR health facilities and services since there are NONE locally, where they can get the rehabilitative therapy they desperately need. Rich people don't use what we have because they like to travel for fun away from home. There's no public transportation in Paw Paw so we have no access to what we still need locally."
"A football field for the youth league would be nice since we have seen the one's that are in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties that are used just for the youth league (Poorhouse, Appleland and Marcus Field <u>ARE GREAT</u>)."
"We need a kids park or recreation center closer to Morgan/Berkeley County line. Nothing to big that blends in with the country scenery"
"Our family would use and enjoy all of these outdoor spaces!"
"Our family would love to have more parks to use."
"We travel out of state often for <u>camping</u> , enjoy taking animals for adventure walks, would be nice to have a <u>camping facility</u> that allows animals (Dogs) and would <u>entertain children</u> and <u>seniors</u> . Such as possible day passes for like (softball fields, outdoor and indoor pools, mini golf, concerts of maybe local musicians, laser tag, basketball, tennis, go carts) and have gated camping area for campers. ☺"
"A nicer pool with "kiddie" pool would be nice, or a way to access the C&O Canal from WV. Maybe via a walking bridge across the Potomac. Just some "safe" way to get across...(Maybe widen 522 bridge)"
"Would love to see an indoor parks and rec center open in Morgan Co."

Conclusion. The focus of the study was to determine a need for recreational opportunities in Morgan County. The results suggest a need for recreational opportunities, particularly for younger children. Since most residents have financial constraints, recreation opportunities should be provided at little to no cost to families. Residents expressed a need for youth sports programs such as soccer, tennis, and football as well as youth art, dance, and performing arts programs. Additionally, residents would like to see improvements to existing facilities such as playground equipment and walking trails at neighborhood parks. Residents are willing to vote for a referendum, but due to small household incomes can only pay a small amount of additional property taxes. Grant writing, along with project fundraising will be essential to offset the costs of developing recreational opportunities in Morgan County.

Survey Instrument

Dear Morgan County Resident:

Your response to the enclosed survey is extremely important...

West Virginia University Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources along with The Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center is conducting a Needs Assessment Survey to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities within the Morgan County community.

We appreciate your time...

We realize that this survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, but each question is important. The time you invest in completing this survey will help direct the future development of recreation facilities in Morgan County that will enrich the future of our community and positively affect the lives of its residents.

Please complete and return your survey...

Your response will remain confidential. Please return your completed survey to Jody McClintock, Morgan County Administrator.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jody McClintock at 304-867-3131 or via email at jmcclintock@morgancountywv.gov. The Needs Assessment Survey is a tool that will benefit all Morgan County residents. Please take this opportunity to let your voice be heard!

Sincerely,

Jody McClintock
Morgan County Administrator

Park and Recreation Resident Survey

The West Virginia University Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources along with Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center are conducting a Needs Assessment Survey to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities within the Morgan County community. This survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey. We greatly appreciate your time!

1. Are you a resident of Morgan County?

_____ (1) Yes [Please continue with the survey.]

_____ (2) No [Please discontinue the survey. This survey is only for Morgan County residents.]

USAGE AND PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE CURRENT PARK SYSTEM

2. Please indicate if YOU or any member of your HOUSEHOLD has a need for each of the parks and recreation facilities listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the park/facility.

If YES, please rate ALL of the following parks and recreation FACILITIES of this type in Morgan County on a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means “100% Meets Needs” and 1 means “Does Not Meet Needs” of your household.

Please Continue to Next Page



Type of Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Facility?		If YES, To What Percent Are Your Needs Being Met?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
AA. Small neighborhood parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
BB. Youth baseball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
CC. Youth softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
DD. Paved walking and biking trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
EE. Large community parks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
FF. Adult softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
GG. Adult baseball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
HH. Off leash dog areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
II. Natural areas/ wildlife habitat	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
JJ. Picnic shelters	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
KK. Skate park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
LL. Interpretive areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
MM. Soccer fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
NN. Lacrosse fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
OO. Football fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
PP. Senior center	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
QQ. Outdoor tennis courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
RR. Outdoor ice skating/hockey rinks	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
SS. Outdoor Swimming Pools	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
TT. Gym space/indoor courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
UU. Disc golf course	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
VV. Sand volleyball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
WW. Outdoor basketball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
XX. Playground equipment	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
YY. Campgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
ZZ. Nature Center	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
3. Municipal golf course	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
4. Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

5. Which THREE of the facilities from the list in Question #2 have you and members of your household used the most during the past year? [Using the numbers in Question #2 above, please write in the numbers for the facilities you use most.]

1st. _____ 2nd. _____ 3rd. _____

6. How would you rate the overall quality of the items listed in Question #3 that you and members of your household have used the most during the past 12 months?

____(1) Excellent ____ (2) Good ____ (3) Fair ____ (4) Poor ____ (5) Don't Know

7. Which THREE of the facilities from the list in Question #2 are *most important* to your household? [Using the letters and numbers in the left hand column of Question #2 above, please write in the letters or numbers below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.]

1st:_____ 2nd:_____ 3rd:_____

8. Please indicate if **YOU or any member of your HOUSEHOLD** has a need for each of the **sports and recreation programs** listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the recreation program.

If YES, please rate ALL of the following recreation PROGRAMS on a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means “100% Meets Needs” and 1 means “Does Not Meet Needs” of your household.

Type of Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Program?		If YES, To What Percent Are Your Needs Being Met?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
Y. Youth Learn to Swim Programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Z. Preschool programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
AA. Before and after school programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
BB. Youth summer camp programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
CC. Youth sports programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
DD. Youth fitness and wellness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
EE. Programs for teens	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
FF. Adult fitness and wellness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
GG. Water fitness programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
HH. Tennis lessons and leagues	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
II. Youth art, dance, performing arts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
JJ. Adult art, dance, performing arts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
KK. Adult sports programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
LL. Adult programs for 50 years and older	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
MM. Programs for people with disabilities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
NN. Birthday parties	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
OO. Adult continuing education programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
PP. Golf lessons and leagues	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
QQ. Special events, i.e. concerts, movies, etc.	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
RR. Nature programs/environmental education	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

SS. Travel programs	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
TT. Farmers' Market	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
UU. Programs with your pets	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
VV. Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
WW. Other: _____	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

9. Which THREE of the programs from the list in Question #6 are *most important* to your household? [Using the letters in Question #6 above please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.]

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____

10. Which THREE of the programs from the list in Question #6 do you *currently participate* in MOST OFTEN at Morgan County facilities? [Using the letters in Question #6 above please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.]

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____

11. **What prevents you from getting involved in recreational activities?** [Check ALL that apply.]

_____(1) The programs & services I want are not being offered

_____(2) Unaware of available programs & services

_____(3) Lack of money

_____(4) Other commitments

_____(5) Not interested

_____(6) Parental concern

_____(7) Peer pressure

_____(8) Transportation problems

_____(9) Activity is too expensive

_____(10) Lack of time

_____(11) Health problems

_____(12) Other: _____

12. If you checked any item from the list in Question #9, please write below about what you do to negotiate these limitations.

POTENTIAL NEW PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

13. **Youth and adult outdoor sports facilities could be developed in Morgan County for playing games, practices, and training. From the list below please check ALL the reasons you and members of your household would use an OUTDOOR sports facility in Morgan County.**
[Check ALL you would use.]

- ____(1) Youth soccer games and/or practices
- ____(2) Youth baseball games and/or practices
- ____(3) Youth softball games and/or practices
- ____(4) Youth lacrosse games and/or practices
- ____(5) Youth football games and/or practices
- ____(6) Youth tennis matches and/or practices
- ____(7) Teaching clinics and lessons
- ____(8) Adult tennis matches and/or practices
- ____(9) Adult softball games and/or practices
- ____(10) Adult soccer games and/or practices
- ____(11) Other:_____
- ____(12) None, wouldn't use an outdoor sports facility

14. **Following are actions that Morgan County could take to develop new parks, recreational facilities and trails. Please tell whether you would be very supportive, somewhat supportive, or not supportive of each item.**

Please Continue to Next Page



How supportive are you of having Morgan County develop the following parks, recreation facility and trail items	Level of Support			
	<i>Very Supportive</i>	<i>Somewhat Supportive</i>	<i>Supportive</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>
Y. New paved walking and biking trails	4	3	2	1
Z. Complete missing walking and biking trail connections	4	3	2	1
AA. Neighborhood parks	4	3	2	1
BB. Install new playground equipment	4	3	2	1
CC. Large community parks	4	3	2	1
DD. Adult softball fields	4	3	2	1
EE. Soccer fields	4	3	2	1
FF. Outdoor aquatic (pool) complex	4	3	2	1
GG. Youth softball fields	4	3	2	1
HH. Youth baseball complex	4	3	2	1
II. Youth lacrosse fields	4	3	2	1
JJ. Flag/touch football fields	4	3	2	1
KK. Disc golf course	4	3	2	1
LL. Off-leash dog areas	4	3	2	1
MM. Purchase land for park and open space	4	3	2	1
NN. Domed athletic facility	4	3	2	1
OO. Outdoor ice skating rinks	4	3	2	1
PP. Picnic shelters	4	3	2	1
QQ. Tennis courts	4	3	2	1
RR. Outdoor basketball courts	4	3	2	1
SS. Teen center	4	3	2	1
TT. Skate park	4	3	2	1
UU. Pedestrian bridges or underpasses for safe trail crossings	4	3	2	1
VV. Other: _____	4	3	2	1
WW. Other: _____	4	3	2	1

15. From the list in # 11, which THREE of the items would you be most willing to fund through a bond levy? [Using the letters in Question #11 above please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.]

1st:._____ 2nd:._____ 3rd:._____

16. What is the maximum amount of additional annual property taxes you would be willing to pay to fund the acquisition and development of the NEW parks, recreational facilities and trails that you are most willing to fund through a bond levy in Question #11?

____(1) \$18 or more per month (\$216 annually)

____(2) \$15-\$17 per month (\$180-\$204 annually)

____(3) \$12-\$14 per month (\$144-\$168 annually)

____(4) \$9-\$11 per month (\$108-\$132 annually)

____(5) \$6-\$8 per month (\$72-\$96 annually)

____(6) \$3-\$5 per month (\$36-\$60 annually)

____(7) None

17. If a voter referendum was held to fund the acquisition, improvement, and development of the types of parks, trails, and recreation facilities that are most important to you and members of your household, how would you vote in the election?

____(1) Vote in Favor

____(3) Not Sure

____(2) Might Vote in Favor

____(4) Vote Against

____(5) Might Vote Against

DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic questions are asked to ensure that the survey respondents are representative of the residents of Morgan County. Your responses will remain confidential.

18. Do you own or rent your home? _____(1) Own _____(2) Rent

19. What is your annual household income?

____(1) Under \$25,000

____(4) \$75,000-\$99,999

____(2) \$25,000-\$49,999

____(5) \$100,000 or more

____(3) \$50,000-\$74,999

20. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are:

Under age 5_____	Ages 15-19_____	Ages 35-44_____	Ages 65-74_____
Ages 5-9_____	Ages 20-24_____	Ages 45-54_____	Ages 75+_____
Ages 10-14_____	Ages 25-34_____	Ages 55-64_____	

21. What is your age?_____

22. Your gender: _____(1) Male _____(2) Female

23. Please share any additional comments that could assist Morgan County in improving parks, trails, open space, recreational facilities and services.

THIS CONCLUDES THE SURVEY. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR TIME!

Acknowledgements to Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for the City of Farmington, MN, and Morgantown, WV BOPARC Recreation Survey.

